



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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February 19, 2013

Senator Carlo Leone  
Representative John Hennessey  
Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Room 509A, Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessey and Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 386 AN ACT CONCERNING HONORARY  
DIPLOMAS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS.

My proposal would honor Vietnam era veterans who left school early to join the armed forces. It would allow the state's Commissioner of Education to issue an honorary high school diploma to any veteran who did not complete high school due to service in the armed forces during the Vietnam era.

This proposal is similar to a measure I co-sponsored in 2011 which allowed boards of education to award high school diplomas to veterans of the Korean War who left school early to enlist in the armed forces in service to their country. That bill is now PA 11-17 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS. It is my hope putting forward this year's proposal that a new generation of veterans who bravely served in defense of our freedom will be able to finally obtain the diploma they deserve.

Thank you for consideration of my request.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Kissel  
State Senator-7<sup>th</sup> District